

A *N<sup>o</sup> 20.*

# DEMONSTRATION,

THAT,

*Hen. Meriton, John Meriton and Lau. Park, Priests,*

Of the County of Norfolk, in Confederacy with *Francis Bugg*, were

## The CHALLENGERS;

## And not the QUAKERS.

**F.** BUGG, their Mercenary Agent, Printed a *Challenge* upon the *Quakers*, bearing Date, the 3<sup>d</sup> of *August*, 1698. in which he says, '*Friends*, you cannot but remember your 'Ancient Practice in going into the Churches, disturbing the Established Ministers, your Challenging them into the Field, to Dispute with you: But behold! Here is a Change with you. *We* may now **Challenge** you, and Charge you again and again; Fearfulness doth Surprize you, that you dare not appear; but remember it is a sign you cannot defend your Errors, and that your Innocency is not Triumphant, as *G. Whitehead* boasts: Let this **Charge and Challenge** therefore be a Touch-Stone to try your Sincerity, and let it be a Monument of your Cowardise and Insincerity for ever.

Now, whether the Three Persons above named, who did so publicly Espouse *F. B's* Charge and **Challenge** be not Included in the *We* Express'd in the above Recited *Challenge*: Let their following Actions demonstrate.

For upon the 28<sup>th</sup> Day of the Month called *August* last, *L. Park* wrote a Letter to *S. Cater*, a Minister among the *Quakers*, with the said Printed **Challenge** inclosed; acquainting him, the said *S. Cater*, 'That he, the said *L. Park*, and *F. Bugg*, and Four more (Six in all) would make 'good the Charge, therein contained, and that they had agreed upon Time and Place, viz. 'The Third of *October* next (says he) if you will meet us with the same Number, at Ten of 'the Clock in the Forenoon, of that Day, in *Dereham Church*; or if that place Offend you, at 'any other Place within the said Parish of *West-Dereham*; and you are desired to resolve us in '14 Days time, that we may rely upon it.

And further, to shew the Industry and Officioufness of the Three *Priests* before named, to Push on the said *Challenge*, and to Urge our Acceptance thereof, and to come forth on the Third of *October* next after: The following *Certificates* may fully Evince.

This is to Certifie, That on or about the 28<sup>th</sup> Day of the Month called *August*, 1698. *John Meriton* and *Lau. Park* came, with *F. Bugg*, accompanied with several of the Inhabitants of *West-Dereham*, to the House of *William Phillips* (*Tho. Becker's* Wife being there) and did leave a Printed Charge and *Challenge* (with *F. Bugg's* Name thereto) against the People called *Quakers*; and soon after, upon the same day, *Samuel Chicks*, one of the Inhabitants of *West-Dereham* afore-said, brought a Paper in Writing to the said *Tho. Becker's* Wife, wherein was Proposed a Meeting to be upon the Third of *October* next following, in *West-Dereham Church*, and that they would be Six of them, and would allow us the like Number, to Debate the Matters contained in the said Printed *Challenge*. Witness our Hands, *William Phillips, Mary Becker*.

This is to Certifie, That upon or about the 30<sup>th</sup> Day of the Month called *August*, 1698. *Hen. Meriton* and *John Meriton* came, with *F. Bugg*, to the House of *John Hubbard*, in *Stoak*, and there did urge again the said Matter, of a Publick Meeting, in the Presence of, *John Hubbard, Daniel Phillips, Edward Plumfid*.

And the same day, the afore-said *Priests*, with *F. Bugg*, went to the *Crown-Inn*, in the said Town of *Stoak*; and one or more of them, would have had the *Inn-keeper* Post up the said Charge and *Challenge*, which the said *Inn-keeper* refused to do: This he affirmed in our Presence, *John Gurney, Joseph Hadduk, Gilbert Lowe*.

By all which it manifestly appears, that the said *Priests*, with *F. Bugg*, were the Aggressors, and *Challengers*, and not the *Quakers*.

Wherefore let all Sober and Moderate Persons Judge, whether we could do any less, than Appear and Defend Our Selves, against their false Charge; considering how they *Barred* us to Come forth and Charged us with *fearfulness* and *Surprize*, if we did not; and said, *Let it be a Monument of your Cowardise and Insincerity for ever*.

*John Feddeman.*

